JUDGE DREDD

UNDER SIEGE

RUSSELL DUNBAR

MORE *JUDGE DREDD* FROM IDW:

JUDGE DREDD: THE BLESSED EARTH

JUDGE DREDD: MEGA-CITY ZERO

JUDGE DREDD: THE DARK JUDGES

HUGE SUCCESS

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THERE'S A REASON WHY STREET JUDGES ARE ALWAYS IN UNIFORM.

WE DON'T GO UNDERCOVER. WE DON'T BLEND IN OR TRY TO HIDE. THIS CONVEYS TO THE PUBLIC A SIMPLE MESSAGE—

—THAT WE DON'T NEED TO.

BLAM

KRUNCH

WHUMP

THAT THE LAW IS EVERYWHERE.

YOU STAND ACCUSED OF RUNNING AN ILLEGAL FOOTBALL OPERATION. HOW DO YOU PLEAD?

GUEST

DEBTORS

VS

MIGRANTS

THE LAW IS *EVERYWHERE.* OUR PROMISE TO PERP AND VICTIM ALIKE.

MEDICAL HELP IS ON THE WAY TO ASSESS YOUR LONG-TERM COGNITIVE HEALTH.

SECUBUS

JUDGE DREDD, PROCEED AT ONCE TO THE GRAND HALL OF JUSTICE.

"THIS IS CONFIDENTIAL. JUDGE BEENY WENT MISSING ONE HOUR AGO."

SHE WAS LAST SEEN ENTERING *PATRICK SWAYZE BLOCK,* ON THE OUTER RIM. SINCE THEN, WE HAVE HAD NO COMMUNICATIONS WITH HER. IN FACT, THE ENTIRE CITY BLOCK HAS GONE DARK.

WE NEED YOU TO FIND JUDGE BEENY AND RE-ESTABLISH THE BLOCK'S LINK WITH THE CITY.

GREAT. WHAT'S THEIR BOYS' CHOIR LOOK LIKE?

GILBERTO PENA *A.K.A.* THE MAYOR. HIS GANG RUNS PATRICK SWAYZE.

WE THINK HE AND HIS ASSOCIATES ARE BEHIND BEENY'S DISAPPEARANCE. WE BELIEVE THEM TO BE HEAVILY ARMED.

NEVER MET ANYONE WHO WASN'T.

ONE MORE THING...

...WE'RE SPREAD AWFULLY THIN OUT THERE. DON'T EXPECT ANY REINFORCEMENTS.

I ASSUMED THAT'S WHY YOU'RE SENDING ME.

INTEL ON PATRICH SWAYZE BLOCK...

"...FIRST OPENED 40 YEARS AGO, PATRICK SWAYZE BLOCK WAS BUILT TO BRING SUSTAINABLE AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF MEGA-CITY ONE."

PATRICK SWAYZE BLOCK

ALOHA WELCOME TONGA SOA
BIENVENU HELLO

PROJECT WAS LATER ABANDONED DUE TO BUDGET CUTS.

UNEMPLOYMENT RATE FOR CURRENT RESIDENTS STANDS AT 92 PERCENT.

PATRICK SWAYZE BLOCK

ALOHA WELCOME TONGA SOA

BIENVENU HELLO

LAWMASTER— PERIMETER SURVEILLANCE.

LAWMASTER, REPORT!

PERIMETER CLEAR

HOWEVER, THE COM TOWER HAS BEEN DESTROYED. THE GRAND HALL OF JUSTICE IS OUT OF COMMUNICAT ONS RANGE.

MEET ME IN THE LOBBY. I'M GOING TO—

BLAM

GUNSHOTS HEARD. COMING FROM THE UPPER FLOORS.

BOOM

BLAM BLAM BLAM

ENERGY USE SUGGESTS ELEVATORS ARE INOPERATIVE.

ONLY DEAD MEN USE THE ELEVATOR.

STAIRWELL IS ON EMERGENCY LOCKDOWN. AUTHORIZED PERSONNEL ONLY.

JUDGE OVERRIDE. AUTHORIZATION: DREDD.

BOOM

LAWMASTER, WHICH FLOOR DO YOU ESTIMATE THE EXPLOSIONS ARE COMING FROM?

KLINK KLINK KLINK

BASED ON THE VOLUME AND YOUR RATE OF ASCENT, I ESTIMATE THE DISTURBANCE IS COMING FROM THE 31ST FLOOR.

KLINK KLINK KLINK

BAROOM

Hmm. GOOD CALL, LAWMASTER.

STANDARD EXECUTION— RAPID FIRE.

ANOTHER JUDGE?!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

RAAAAHH!

TRP

WHAM

FWUNK

MUTANTS?!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

INCENDIARY.

BEENY!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

YOU'RE LATE TO THE BARBECUE, DREDD.

WE THOUGHT YOU'D BEEN TAKEN BY A STREET GANG.

I W SH! I CAME UP HERE TO DO A CLASSROOM VISIT. THE NEXT THING I KNOW, I'M AMBUSHED BY MUTANTS.

BLAM BLAM

KILL ME! I'M BURNING—

THERE'S GOT TO BE DOZENS OF THEM. I PUT THE ENTIRE BLOCK ON EMERGENCY LOCKDOWN. DO THE MUTANTS KNOW YOU'RE HERE?

ONLY THE DEAD ONES.

ATTEN— IS THIS THING ON? HELLO? ATTENTION, LADY JUDGE!

TIME TO FACE FACTS. THE BUILDING IS OURS. YOU'RE LOW ON BULLETS AND OUT OF GRENADES. SHOW YOUR HANDS, COME OUT UNARMED, AND YOU MAY YET LIVE.

CHART OF EXTINCTION

VIOLENCE IS

EVER THE ANSWER

SHE'S SURRENDERING!

CHEMICOLA

OKAY, NOW COME OUT SLOWLY. THERE'S NO REASON FOR ANYONE TO GET—

YOU READY?

YEP.

–HURT!

BLAARGH!

BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM

I THINK THAT'S ALL OF THEM ON THIS FLOOR. SHOULD TAKE THEM A LITTLE WHILE TO WORK PAST THE LOCKDOWN.

THEY'RE EVERYWHERE! THEY CONTROL ALL THE UPPER FLOORS!

HOW DID THEY GET IN?!

"THERE'S A WASTE CHANNEL ON THE 45th FLOOR. RUNS STRAIGHT THROUGH THE CITY WALL."

WELCOME TO PARADISE!

"THE WASTE CHANNEL WAS BUILT TO DEAL WITH THE RUNOFF FROM THE FACTORY AND THE SOY FARM THEY WERE GOING TO EMBED IN THE BUILDING. PATRICK SWAYZE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE COMPLETELY SELF-SUFFICIENT—JOBS FOR EVERYONE.

"BUT THEY NEVER BUILT THE FACTORY, AND WHEN THE FARM NEVER MATERIAL ZED, OUR ONLY ASSET WAS THE WASTE CHANNEL. SOON, WE WERE TAKING IN TOXIC WASTE AND SEWAGE FROM THREE SECTORS. THE WASTE CHANNEL WAS RUNNING DAY AND NIGHT."

SO, IF YOU'RE PUMPING SO MUCH OUT, HOW DID THEY GET *IN*?

THAT WASTE CHANNEL HASN'T WORKED IN YEARS.

AFTER A WHILE, WE WEREN'T EVEN GOOD ENOUGH FOR YOUR SHIT.

SO, HOW MANY MUTANTS ARE IN THE BUILDING ABOVE US?

I DON'T KNOW. HUNDREDS, MAYBE.

"BUT THAT'S THE LEAST OF YOUR PROBLEMS."

"THEY HAVE A LEADER. HIS NAME IS *TALLEYRAND.*"

SHE'S GOT HELP. ANOTHER JUDGE...

SO, NOW OUR ADVANTAGE IS ONLY WHAT? 500 TO... *TWO?*

THE WHOLE BUILDING IS ON EMERGENCY LOCKDOWN. YOU HAVE TO BE A JUDGE TO ACCESS THE STAIRWELLS.

OR A MAINTENANCE WORKER...

"THEY TOOK OVER THE TOP HALF OF THE CITY BLOCK BEFORE THE FIGHTING EVEN STARTED. EVERYONE ABOVE THIS FLOOR IS A HOSTAGE."

WITH MY THUMBPRINT, I CAN OPEN WHATEVER DOORS YOU WANT.

JUST, PLEASE... DON'T HURT MY FAMILY.

THAT'S VERY SWEET OF YOU. BUT YOU SHOULDN'T WASTE YOUR TIME FOLLOWING ME FROM FLOOR TO FLOOR. THERE'S MUCH MORE IMPORTANT WORK FOR YOU.

THAT'S ALL I KNOW.

WHERE ARE YOU GOING?!

ANYWHERE THAT'S NOT HERE.

MAINTENANCE OVERRIDE.

AFTER YOU, GENTLEMEN...

POW POW POW

WELL, THAT DIDN'T TAKE LONG.

COFFEE BREAK'S OVER.

BLAM BLAM

BLAM BLAM

WHO ARE YOU?!

THE PEOPLE WHO FUCKING LIVE HERE.

GO CHECK ON THE NORTHWEST CORNER, FIDELIO.

ON MY WAY, MAYOR.

I KNOW WHO YOU ARE. I SHOULD ARREST YOU RIGHT NOW.

MAYBE. UNLESS YOU'D RATHER SURVIVE.

TIGER, YOU'RE WITH ME.

I GOT PEOPLE AT EVERY STAIRWELL, BUT IT'S NOT ENOUGH. THERE'S TOO MANY OF THEM. WE NEED TO FIND A MORE DEFENSIBLE POSITION.

ROUND UP YOUR SOLDIERS. JUDGE BEENY AND I WILL ORGANIZE THE DEFENSE.

AND WHY SHOULD WE TAKE ORDERS FROM YOU?

I AM THE LAW.

I NEVER SEEN YOU BEFORE. AROUND HERE, YOU AIN'T THE LAW. YOU A TOURIST!

BEEP BEEP BEEP

Y'ALL CAN HELP IF YOU WANT, BUT I'M ONLY TAKING ORDERS FROM PEOPLE WHO CARE ABOUT US.

SKUNK

I DON'T TRUST THEM.

I DON'T, EITHER. BUT THEY HAVE THE NUMBERS, AND THEY KNOW THE BLOCK. WE NEED THEM IF WE'RE GOING TO TURN THE MUTANTS BACK.

EXACTLY— THE MUTANTS. THEY GOT IN BECAUSE THESE PEOPLE LIVE IN SHAMBLES.

EITHER OF YOU HAVE ANY PETS WHEN YOU WERE KIDS?

I HAD A LIZARD.

AND ITS TANK—DID THE LIZARD BUILD IT?

COME ON. LET'S GET YOU TO A SAFER FLOOR.

HOW MANY SOLDIERS YOU GOT?

TWENTY.

NINETEEN.

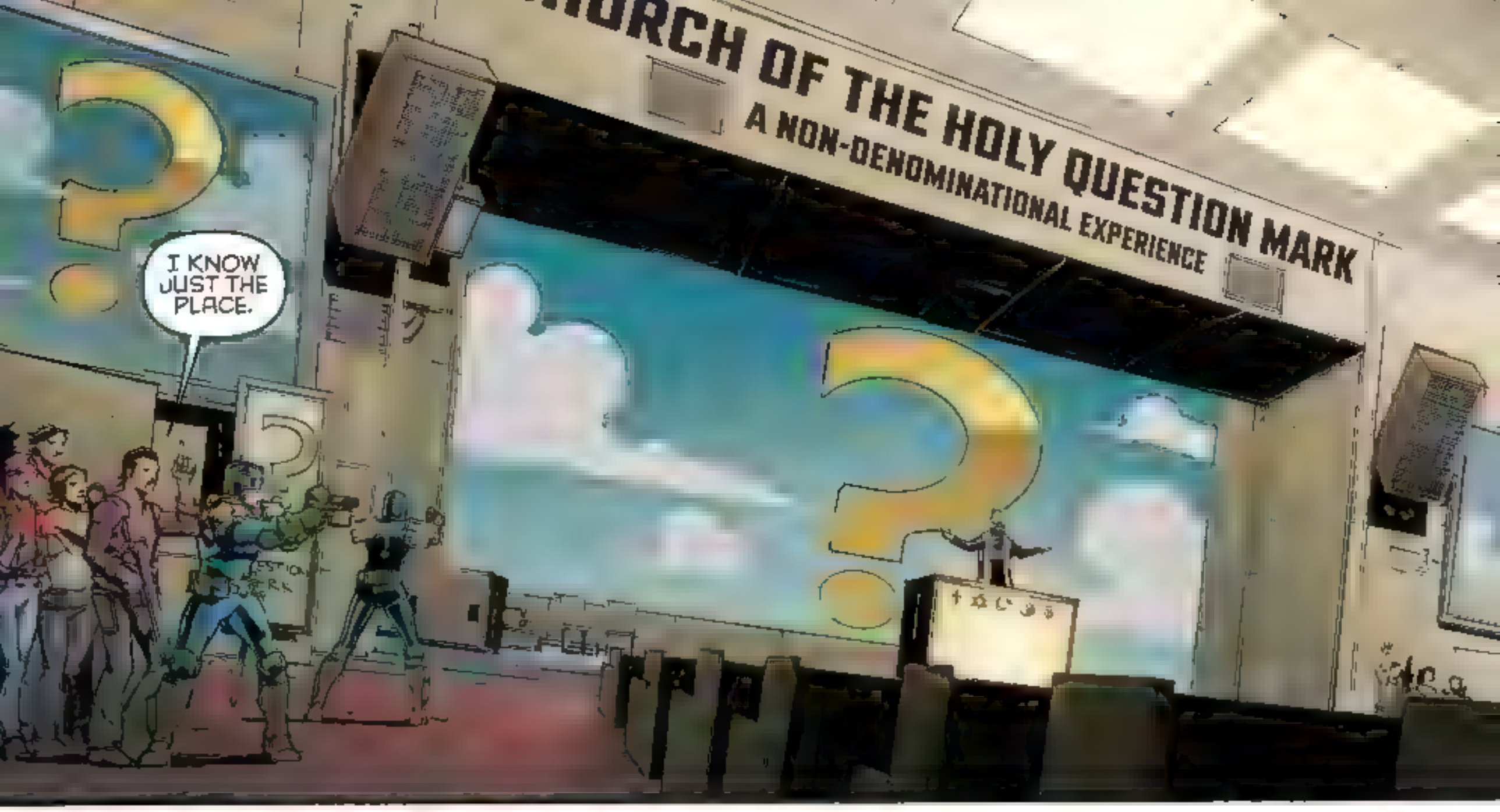
BLAM BLAM BLAM

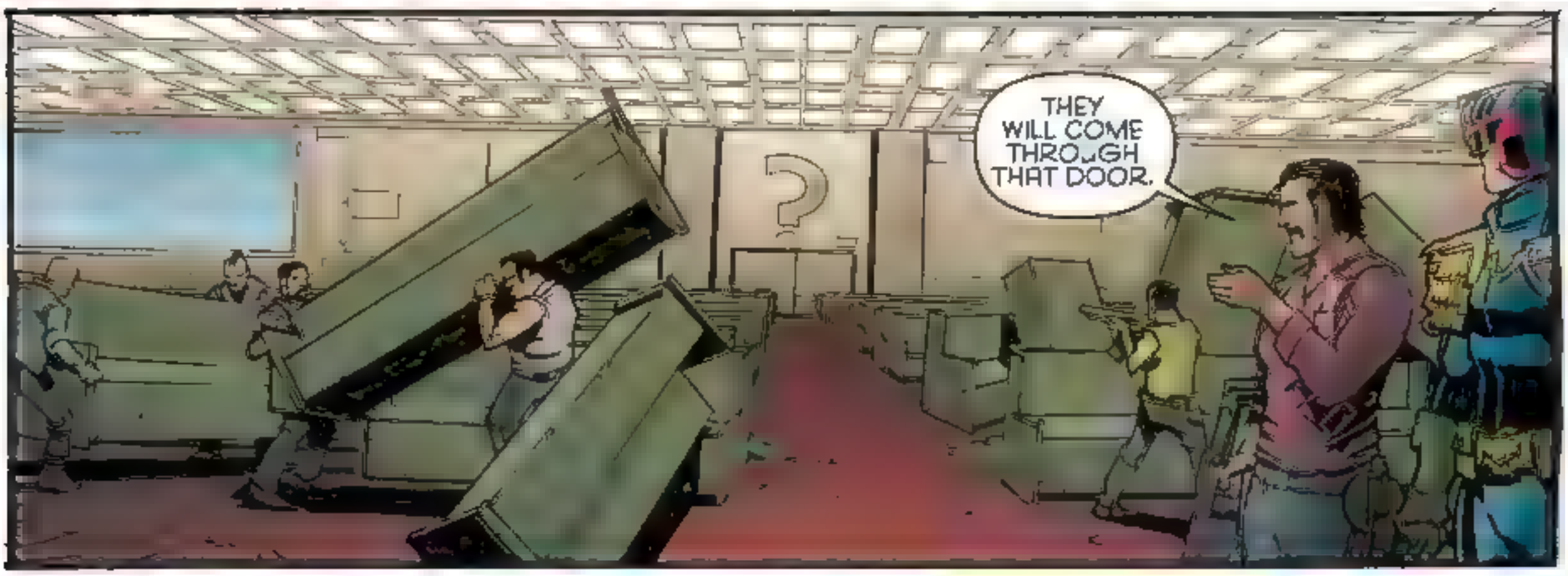
AAAGH!

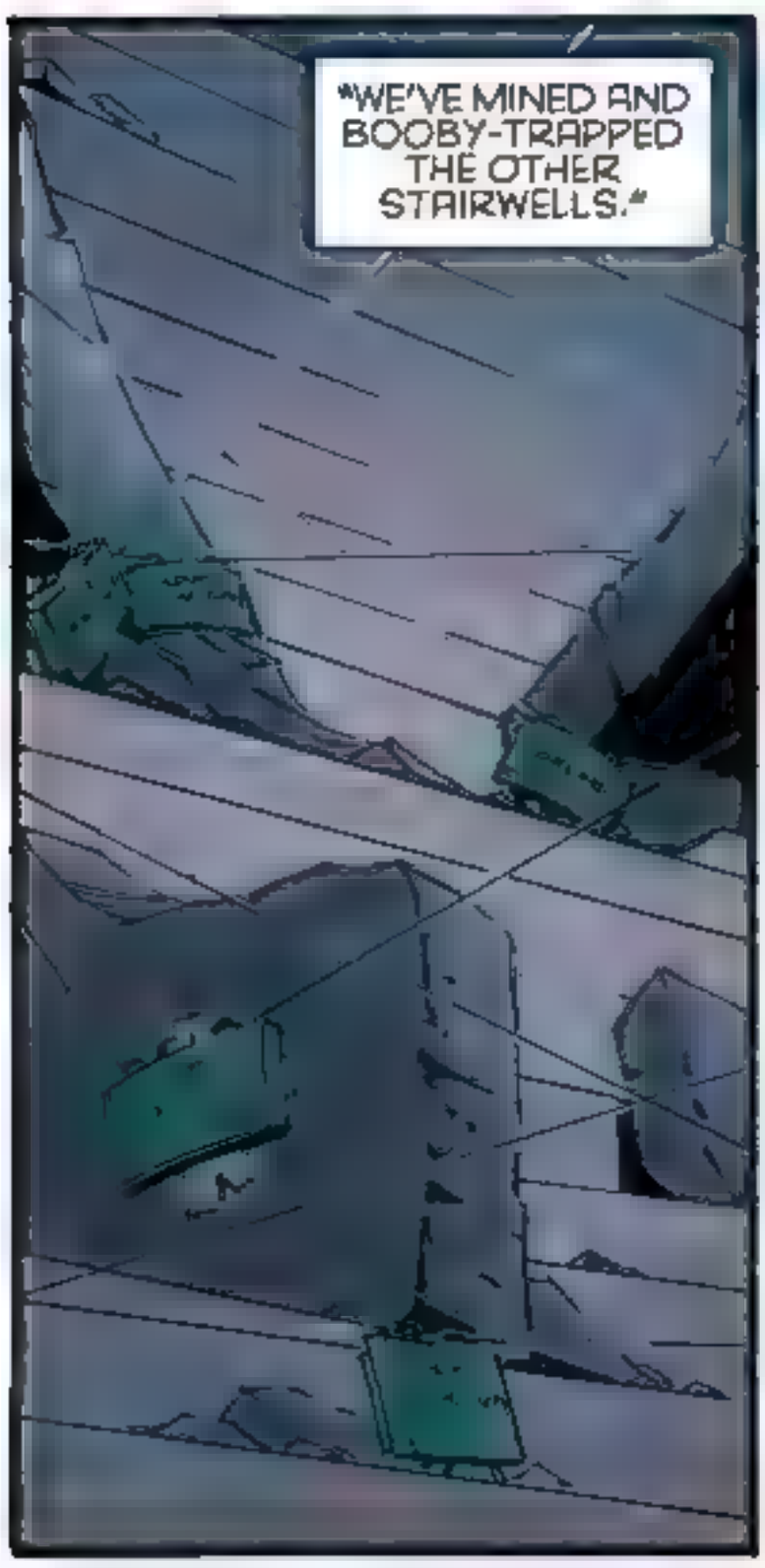
NOT ENOUGH TO DEFEND A WHOLE FLOOR. WE NEED TO SET UP IN A PLACE WHERE ALL THE MUTANTS WILL FUNNEL INTO A SINGLE ROOM— A KILL ZONE.

YEAH.

EMERGENCY LOCKDOWN OVERRIDE. WELL, HELLO, MAYOR!


I KNOW JUST THE PLACE.
CHURCH OF THE HOLY QUESTION MARK
A NON-DENOMINATIONAL EXPERIENCE


THEY WILL COME THROUGH THAT DOOR.


"WE'VE MINED AND BOOBY-TRAPPED THE OTHER STAIRWELLS."

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO CHURCH TODAY, MY CHILD? PLEASE SELECT FROM THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS...
DIRECTIONS.
BUT WE HAVE OTHER PROBLEMS...
VALIDATION
RAID OF DYING
IONS
GUILT
ANGER
BLIP

...THEY ALREADY TOOK OUT THE COM-TOWER ON THE ROOF. IF WE WANT TO RETAKE THE BUILDING, WE NEED TO GET TO THE CONTROL STATION ON THE 50th FLOOR.

SO, WHAT YOU'RE TELLING ME IS THAT THEY ALREADY HAVE IT.

THE LAW ISN'T PERFECT. IT DOES NOT ALWAYS WIN.

YEAH, BUT THEY MAY NOT KNOW WHAT THEY HAVE. THAT ROOM CONTROLS ALL THE SYSTEMS FOR EACH FLOOR.

AND IF THEY DO KNOW?

BUT IT'S ALL WE HAVE.

IT IS ALL THAT SEPARATES THE CITY FROM THE JUNGLE. THE SOLE FLICKERING LIGHT—

SHUNK

SHUNK

SHUNK

SHUNK

THEN WE'RE PLAYED OUT LIKE JHER' CURLS. ONCE THEY FIGURE OUT HOW TO USE THE CONTROL STATION...

—TO SAVE US FROM THE DARKNESS.

...WE'RE COOKED.

ALAN QUAH KOMIKAKI STUDIO FEATURING SEAN LEE

MAX DUNBAR JOSE LUIS RIO

GRUD-
DAMMIT.
THEY'VE CUT
THE POWER.

YOU NEVER
KNOW WHEN A
LIGHT JACKET
WILL COME IN
HANDY.

KRAK KRUNK

THEY'RE
COMING.

WE'RE
ALL GONNA
DIE! WE'RE
DOOMED!

THEN
WHY WHINE
ABOUT IT?

THOSE
SOUNDS. THEY
AREN'T COMING
FROM THE
STAIRWELL.

KRAK
KRUNK
KLUNK

KRRSH

YAARGH!

THEY'RE BEHIND US!

BLAM

BLAM BLAM

WHAT BRINGS YOU TO CHURCH TODAY, MY CHILD?

D.E!

YOU HAVE SELECTED "FEAR OF DYING."

BLAM BLAM

AS FAR AS WE KNOW, HUMANS ARE THE ONLY SPECIES AWARE OF THEIR OWN MORTALITY.

AYYIEE!

BLAM BLAM

OOF!

ALL HUMAN EXPERIENCE IS ESSENTIALLY THE SAME. WE WAKE UP EACH MORNING, KNOWING THAT SOMEDAY WE'RE GOING TO DIE—WHICH MAKES IT HARD TO FOCUS ON LIVING.

THIS IS WHY WE'RE ALL LOOKING FOR SOMETHING TO BELIEVE IN.

BLAM

NOT BECAUSE WE'RE DEEP OR SPIRITUAL PEOPLE. NOT TO FIND "THE MEANING OF LIFE," WHATEVER THAT IS...

BLAM

BEHIND YOU!

...BUT SIMPLY TO DISTRACT US FROM THE FACT WE'RE GOING TO DIE.

RUN!

AN HOUR OR TWO OF PEACE AND QUIET IN OUR OWN MINDS SO WE CAN JERK OFF AND DO THE DISHES. THAT'S ALL THE SOLACE WE GET.

BUT REALLY, IT'S ALL THE SOLACE WE NEED. ONE ANSWER IS AS GOOD AS ANOTHER. SO PLEASE, LOOK AROUND. WE HAVE MANY FINE RELIGIONS TO CHOOSE FROM.

DOWN THE STAIRS! GO!

BLAM BLAM

FIND THE ONE THAT'S RIGHT FOR YOU!

SEE YOU IN HELL, GRENADE.

FWOOMP

KEEP GOING!

BOOOM

THERE'S NOT ENOUGH OF US. WE CAN'T COVER AN ENTIRE FLOOR.

WE NEED LESS CEILING TO DEFEND. GILBERTO, IS THERE AN ATRIUM, ANY FLOORS WITH AN OPEN CEILING NEARBY?

NOBODY'S CALLED ME GILBERTO IN *YEARS*.

IT'S *MAYOR* NOW.

LEVEL 1S. THE SHOPPING MALL. BEEN CLOSED FOR YEARS.

STILL SMELLS LIKE CORNDOGS.

THERE'S ANOTHER ADVANTAGE TO THIS LOCATION...

KLIK

WHARRR

BACKUP GENERATORS!

FIFTEEN YEARS EARLIER...

ERSAT'S MEATS

WELCOME TO ERSAT'S MEATS. THE FINEST FAKE MEAT IN MEGA-CITY ONE. HOW CAN I HELP YOU?

CHICKEN GLOBULES, PLEASE.

OH, MY GOD! THE TUBE RATS ARE COMING FOR LUNCH. MASKS, TANISHA!

THAT'S TWO NOT-DOGS AND A CHEMICOLA. CAN I GET YOUR NAME, SIR?

GILBERTO.

IF WE'RE GOING TO DEFEND THESE PEOPLE, WE'RE GOING TO NEED THEIR HELP. KNOCK ON DOORS—GIVE A GUN TO EVERYONE WHO WANTS TO FIGHT.

FOURTEEN YEARS EARLIER...

YOU EVER SEEN A REAL CHICKEN?

ONCE. IN A MOVIE.

WHEN YOU'RE DONE GR.NDIN' THE GLOBULES, COME SEE ME.

YES, MR. ERSAT?

GIRLS, I'M GOING TO HAVE TO LET YOU GO.

BUT WHY?

I'M CLOSIN' DOWN. WE BEEN LOSIN' MONEY S.NCE THE TUBE STOPPED PUMPIN' WASTE.

BUT, MR. ERSAT I'M THE ONLY ONE IN MY FAMILY WHO'S WORKING. WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO FOR MONEY?

WELL, THERE'S *ONE* PLACE STILL DOIN' WELL.

WELCOME TO KIDNEY HUT!

YOU'RE MAKING A WISE DECISION. HELPING OTHERS AND TAKING CHARGE OF YOUR FINANCIAL SITUATION.

KIDNEY HUT

KIDNEYS GOD GAVE YOU A SPARE!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN AN INDIVIDUAL OR FAMILY PLAN?

FAMILY PLAN?

YOU SIGN UP YOUR WHOLE FAMILY, AND WE TAKE ONE KIDNEY A YEAR. AND WHEN SOMEONE TURNS 70, WE GET THEIR LIVER. BUT YOU GET CREDITS EVERY MONTH. IT'S LIKE HAVING A JOB, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ANY WORK.

BOOM!

WHY NOT? LIVING 'TIL 70 IN SWAYZE BLOCK? THAT'S LIKE SOMETHING OUT OF A FANTASY NOVEL.

SO WHADDYA SAY?

LET'S GET THE KIDNEY TRAIN A-ROLLIN'!

PUT SOME SNIPERS ON THE TOP BALCONY TO PICK OFF HOSTILES. THE BULK OF OUR FORCES WILL SET UP DEFENSIVE POSITIONS IN THE MALL. KEEP CLEAR LINES OF FIRE IN THE CORRIDORS.

WHERE YOU TWO GOING TO BE?

WHEREVER NEEDS THE MOST KILLIN'.

MAYOR?

ALL RIGHT. WE MAY JUST STAND A CHANCE.

NORMALLY, I'D BE WORR'ED TO SEE SO MANY PEOPLE SHOWING UP TO HELP THE LOCAL CRIME LORD. BUT, IN THIS CASE, I'LL TAKE IT.

THEY FIGHT FOR HIM BECALSE HE'S FOUGHT FOR THEM.

KIDNEY HUT

FAST CASH

THAT SHOP LOOKS VULNERABLE TO STRUCTURAL INFILTRATION. KEEP A GUN TRAINED ON IT AT ALL TIMES.

BELIEVE ME, WE'LL KILL *ANYTHING* THAT COMES OUT OF THAT PLACE.

THIRTEEN YEARS EARLIER...

NEXT MONTH, WE OWE ANOTHER KIDNEY.

GRANDMA, YOU'RE OUT. YOU DONATED LAST TIME.

UNCLE FRANK?

I LOST AN ARM WORKIN' THE TUBE—NOW I GOTTA LOSE A KIDNEY, TOO?

FINE.

I'LL GIVE MINE.

FOUR WEEKS LATER.

KNOCK KNOCK

INTERNAL COLLECTION AGENTS.

TIGER WHITEHEAD?

SHE'S OUT RIGHT NOW. DON'T KNOW WHEN SHE'LL BE BACK.

IDA WHITEHEAD. IDENTITY CONFIRMED.

FIGURES. CAN'T WALK A MALL OR CROSS A STREET WITHOUT SEEING YOU PEOPLE. BUT WHEN IT COMES TIME TO PAY YOUR BILLS, YOU'RE NOWHERE TO BE FOUND.

I BEG YOUR—

HEY. KID'S ON THE LIST.

JEROME WHITEHEAD.

JEROME! WHERE ARE YOU TAKING HIM?!

HE'S ON THE FAMILY PLAN, SAME AS HER. KIDNEY'S A KIDNEY. THEY AIN'T PICKY.

GRANDMA?!

JUST DOING OUR JOBS, MA'AM.

NEXT TIME, READ THE FINE PRINT.

GRANDMA?

GRANDMA, WHERE'S JEROME?

THE KIDNEY HUT...

KNOCK KNOCK

THEY GOT MY BROTHER! I NEED YOUR HELP!

PLEASE!

GILBERTO!

GILBERTO.

YOU MADE IT TO 70! CONGRATULATIONS! UNFORTUNATELY, WE DO HAVE TO TAKE YOUR LIVER NOW.

HAPPY B.RTHDAY, YO!

YOU HEAR THAT, 18? IT'S A BIRTHDAY PARTY!

20

18

YOU TOOK A SMALL BOY. I'M HERE TO GET HIM BACK.

BREAK TIME'S OVER!

BEAT IT, HOSS. WE DON'T WANT ANY–

UBLE $ $
OUR $
EDITS $
$

DIET CUT
BUT SO FEEL FLE

–TROUBLE.

GO. GET HIM.

YOU JUST MADE A *BIG* M.STAKE, SON.

HEY!

KRUNK

GODDAMN, KILOGRAM!

18

GO!

I'M...I'M SORRY.

SHOOT HIM, YOU DUMB— OOF!

BIFF

JEROME?

KLIK

LOOKS LIKE WE'LL BE TAKING ALL YOUR ORGANS, SON.

AAGH!

KRRRRRCK

WAKE UP! HERE THEY COME!

SURVEILLANCE DRONES ON!

BZZZ

FZZZT

WAAAAH!

Huh?

HA HA! DRONES? REALLY?

GOODNIGHT, PIÑATA!

BLAM BLAM

PLEASE. YOU'VE GOT TO HELP US.

I CAN GET YOU OUT OF HERE ALIVE. BUT HERE'S THE DEAL—I GET YOUR PASSWORD TO KIDNEY HUT'S FAMILY PLAN RECORDS AND EVERY HARDCOPY YOU HAVE.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

OVER THERE! THE MUTANTS HAVE BROKEN THROUGH!

BOOOM

I MANAGED TO DESTROY ALL THE RECORDS FOR SWAYZE BLOCK, BUT THEY'LL BE BACK. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME.

KIDNEY HOU

SPREAD OUT! KILL THEM *ALL!*

THINGS ARE GOING TO BE DIFFERENT NOW.

GOOD.

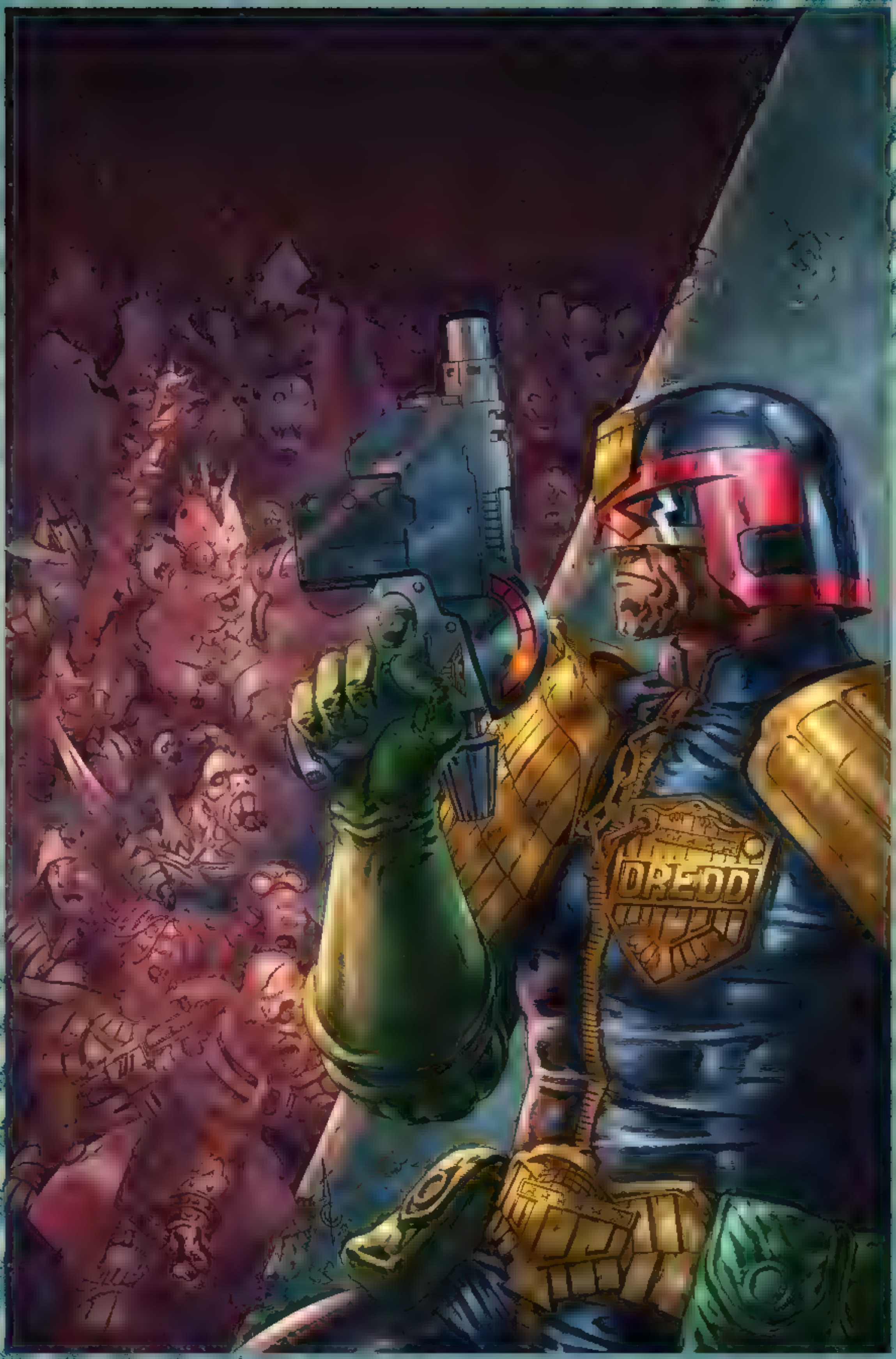
NO BUSINESS WILL EVER OPEN HERE AGAIN. AND THE LAW IS GOING TO VIEW US AS CRIMINALS FROM THIS DAY FORWARD. WHATEVER COMES, WE'RE ON OUR OWN. WE HAVE TO TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER.

WHATEVER YOU SAY...

...MAYOR.

BLAM BLAM BLAM

RAAAGH!



ALAN QUAH KOMIKAKI STUDIO FEATURING SEAN LEE

MAX DUNBAR JOSE LUIS RIO

THE MUTANT INVASION OF PATRICK SWAYZE BLOCK CONTINUES TO RAGE.

YAAAH!

BLAM BLAM

WHAT'S A MATTER? JUDGES NO WANNA PLAY?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING?

HAVEN'T PLAYED THIS SINCE THE ACADEMY.

JUDGES NO LIKE MY GAME?!

WHAT THE-

-DROKKP!

I ♥ NC1

EVER TRY TETHERBALL, MEATHEAD?

STILL UNDEFEATED AT TETHERBALL.

WOOSH

TIGER! BEHIND YOU!

BLAM BLAM

HUH?!

STOP SQUIRMIN'!

TIME TO D.E—

KLUNK

—BITCH!

I'M GOIN' IN.

PLINK
PLINK
PLINK
PLINK
PLINK
PLINK

PLEASE! DON'T SHOOT! I SURRENDER!

GRRRRT

I'M NOT A BAD PERSON! I SIMPLY ACTED ON THE INCENTIVES LAID BEFORE ME IN A LIFE WITH FEW OPPORTUNITIES!

YOU FIRED ON A *JUDGE!*

WELL, HE *IS* SURRENDERING.

FINE.

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

BLAM
BLAM

HUNNNH!

GOTCHA!

GRRRRSCHAW

WELL, AT LEAST YOU TRIED.

KLUNK

THEY'LL BE BACK. RELOAD AND RESUME DEFENSIVE POSITIONS.

RELOAD.

CRIME MEMO

KLAK

CHAK

YOUR PEOPLE HAVE A REAL PROBLEM WITH THE LAW.

YEAH...

WHERE ARE THOSE CUTE LITTLE COLLECTION AGENTS I HIRED?

HERE, MY LORD.

SO, THIS IS THE LOCATION YOU WERE TELLING ME OF?

YES, IT'S THE FIVE POINTS.

"THE HEART OF MEGA-CITY ONE'S SUB-PED SYSTEM. FROM THERE, THE SUB-PEDS SPIRAL OUT TO DOZENS OF SECTORS ACROSS THE MEG."

"IF YOU'RE GONNA SET OFF A DIRTY BOMB, THAT'S THE PLACE."

HEY! WHAT'S THIS? MUST BE MY LUCKY DAY!

"A BOMB THERE WOULD SPREAD DEBRIS FOR MILES...

BOOOOOOOM

"...OVER DOZENS OF SECTORS ACROSS MEGA-CITY ONE."

SWEET! THAT'LL DO NICELY.

SUMMON MY ENGINEERS!

CLAP CLAP

AND WHO'S TH S CHARMING LAD?

THIS IS OUR SON, REX. HE HELPS WITH THE DEMOLITION.

WE NEED TO SHOW YOU SOMETHING, SIR.

CRAP IN A HAT. HOW MANY DID WE LOSE?

ABOUT A HUNDRED. AND WE ST LL DON'T KNOW HOW MANY WE LOST ON LEVEL 15.

BUT THERE'S A BIGGER PROBLEM.

CHURCH OF THE HOLY QUESTION MARK

AT THIS RATE, IF WE HAVE TO DEMOLISH AND FIGHT OUR WAY DOWN EVERY FLOOR–

–IT WILL TAKE DAYS.

WELL, CHEESEBURGERS. LOOKS LIKE I'LL HAVE TO EXPEDITE MATTERS.

WELL, I DOUBT THEY'LL SEND THE EAST-MEG BALLET AFTER US AGAIN.

WE'VE GOT GUNS IN EVERY STORE IN THIS MALL. FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE THIS FIGHT BEGAN, I FEEL LIKE WE HAVE—

HELLO?!

COULD YOU ADJUST THE VOLUME ON TH S TH NG?

Umm... ATTENTION, RES DENTS OF MEGA-CITY ONE...

...I REFER TO YOU AS RESIDENTS BECAUSE THAT IS WHAT YOU ARE. THAT IS HOW THEY SEE YOU.

"NOT AS CITIZENS, SHARING IN THE R CIV LIZATION'S BOUNTY."

"NOT EVEN AS *HUMAN BEINGS,* TO WHOM THEY MERELY OWE A DECENT LIFE. BUT AS *RESIDENTS...*"

NOT FOR DRINKING

...TAKERS OF SPACE.

IF MUTANTS ARE COCKROACHES, WORTHY ONLY OF BEING STEPPED ON WHEN WE HAVE THE AUDACITY TO VENTURE INDOORS—

—THEN YOU ARE THEIR RATS. SCURRYING BETWEEN THEIR WALLS, HIDING IN THEIR DARKENED CORNERS... SURVIVING ONLY UNTIL THEY FIND A BETTER WAY TO TRAP YOU.

KIDNEY HUT

BUT I HAVE COME TO TELL YOU THAT RAT AND COCKROACH ARE NOT ENEMIES... BUT ALLIES! OUR ONLY TRUE ENEMY IS MEGA-CITY ONE AND ITS JUDGES. JOIN US... AND TOGETHER WE WILL SHARE THE HOME THEY DENY US.

KILL THE JUDGES AND LET US PASS THROUGH YOUR BUILDING, AND WE WILL LEAVE YOU IN PEACE.

I KNOW WHAT THE MAN JUST SAID MAKES SENSE...

YEAH, IT KINDA DOES.

I DID *10 YEARS* IN THE ISO-CUBES!

SOMEONE REMIND ME WHY WE'RE FIGHTING *FOR* THE JUDGES?

BLAM

WHY WOULD YOU *FIRE A GUN* DUR NG A TENSE STANDOFF?

I NEEDED TO GET YOUR ATTENTION.

I KNOW, BJT *DAMN!* THERE ARE BETTER WAYS.

THAT'S THE MAYOR YOU'RE TALKING TO. LET THE MAN SPEAK.

I KNOW YOU DON'T TRUST THE JUDGES. I DON'T EITHER. BUT YOU KNOW WHO I TRUST EVEN LESS?

"SOME GUY WHO JUST CRAWLED IN *THROUGH A WASTE PIPE!*"

YOU THINK IT WORKED?

"HOW MANY OF US IS HE HOLDING PRISONER? HOW MANY HAS HE KILLED?"

I DON'T TRUST THE LAW!

"AND I DON'T TRUST IN LIBERATORS!"

THE PRISONERS YOU ASKED FOR, MY LORD.

I DON'T TRUST IN *INSTITUTIONS.*

"SOME OF YOU WERE THERE THAT DAY, 13 YEARS AGO. THE DAY WE TOOK SWAYZE BLOCK BACK FROM THE JUDGES AND THE PREDATORS."

LET'S GO.

YOU ARE GOING TO PAY FOR THIS IN WAYS YOU CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE!

"AND WE SWORE THAT DAY THAT, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED, WE'D NEVER GIVE IT BACK... TO *ANYONE.*"

I'M NOT GOING.

LOOK, IT'S EITHER THIS, OR WE KILL YOU, *THEN* DUMP YOU.

"THAT DAY, WE DID WHAT EVERY CIVILIZATION FEARS MOST. WE TOOK CONTROL OF OUR OWN LIVES."

YOU'RE SENTENCING US TO DEATH OUT THERE.

WE'LL BE BACK, ORGAN DONOR!

DON'T FORGET YOUR HAT.

WE'RE NOT FIGHTING FOR THE JUDGES. WE'RE FIGHTING FOR *EACH OTHER.* BUT IF THE JUDGES WANT TO *HELP,* THEN THAT'S FINE WITH ME.

IT DIDN'T WORK, DID IT? WELL, CRUMBS!

THEY'LL PROBABLY ATTACK FROM AS MANY ENTRY POINTS AS POSS.BLE. MAXIM ZE THEIR NJMERICAL ADVANTAGE. SO BE READY FOR—

HELLO? HELLO. IT'S ME AGAIN!

FROM THE LACK OF NOISE, I'M GUESSING THAT YOU ARE **NOT** TAKING MY EXTREMELY GENEROUS OFFER. SO, SADLY, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'LL HAVE TO RESUME THE SHOOTING AND KILLING. **BUT!** BEFORE WE DO, HERE'S THE NEW DEAL.

FOR EACH HOUR THE JUDGES REMAIN ALIVE, I WILL KILL FIFTY OF YOUR FRIENDS AND RELATIVES.

STARTING... ONE HOUR AGO.

OH MY GRUD

DID YOU HEAR THAT?

HERE THEY COME!

CLINK

DREDD, WE HAVE TO-

BLAM

I'M SORRY. MY DAUGHTER IS UP THERE.

MY FATHER!

NO!

BAFF

BLAMBLAMBLAMBLAM

FOR THE CRIME OF ATTEMPTED MURDER OF A JUDGE...

STOP! THIS IS WHAT THEY WANT!

WELL, *THAT* SHOULD STIR THE MUSTARD!

THEY'RE DIVIDED. UNABLE TO TRUST EACH OTHER. NOW'S THE TIME TO LAUNCH AN ALL-OUT ATTACK. FIGHT W TH US, AND WHEN IT'S OVER, I WILL TURN SWAYZE BLOCK OVER TO YOU.

ALONG WITH EVERYONE IN IT.

ALAN QUAH KOMIKAKI TODD FEATURING SEAN LEE

MAX DUNBAR JOSE LUIS RIO

THERE'S A SAYING— JUSTICE IS WHAT YOU GET IN THE NEXT LIFE.

DROP YOUR WEAPON!

STOP! THEY *WANT* US TO FIGHT EACH OTHER!

I'M SORRY. MY WHOLE FAMILY'S UP THERE.

IN THIS LIFE, YOU GET *LAW.*

HOW DARE YOU DRAW A GUN ON *THE MAYOR?!*

KRUNK

BUT THAT'S NOT TRUE.

WE HAVE NO CHOICE! HAND OVER THE JUDGES OR DIE!

ALL YOU EVER GET IS PEOPLE DOING THEIR BEST TO SURVIVE IN A WORLD THEY DIDN'T CREATE.

GET THEM OUT OF HERE, NOW!

PAP PAP POW PAP

AND WHEN THE LAW NO LONGER HELPS PEOPLE SURVIVE IN THEIR WORLD...

POW
BOOM

DREDD

...THEY CREATE THEIR OWN LAW.

LAWMASTER! REPORT!

WHIRR

SENDING YOU TO GET MEDICAL ATTENTION—

NO! YOU NEED ME.

WHEN YOU GET INTO RANGE OF THE NEXT COM TOWER, CALL FOR HELP.

YOU WON'T LAST THAT LONG!

LAWMASTER, GO!

VROOOM

DAMN IT, DREDD!

SHE'S RIGHT, YOU KNOW.

THEY'RE TEARING EACH OTHER APART UP THERE AS WE SPEAK. WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE.

UNLESS WE GO ON THE OFFENSE.

WHAT D.D YOU HAVE IN MIND?

I'M SORRY TH S ELEVATOR S OUT OF ORDER. PLEASE TRY-

WELCOME, MAYOR! ELEVATOR 4 AT YOUR SERVICE.

ONLY DEAD MEN USE THE ELEVATOR.

FIFTIETH FLOOR. OPERATIONS CONTROL.

AFTER YOU, THEN.

A SECRET ELEVATOR, HUH?

COMES IN HANDY FOR HIDING FROM THE JUDGES.

ROBOTIC PROSTHETICS FOR ANY OCCASION!

AVAILABLE NOW AT THE SECOND HAND STORE.

WELL, IT DID UNTIL NOW, ANYWAY.

SEWER

SHOULD WE BEGIN THE ASSAULT NOW?

NOT YET. LET THEM KILL EACH OTHER OFF A LITTLE MORE.

20

LA-DEE-DEE-DA. I'M IN SUCH A GOOD MOOD! ANYONE MIND IF I WHISTLE?

WHY DO YOU WANT TO DESTROY MEGA-CITY ONE, IF YOU DON'T MIND MY ASKING?

DESTROY IT? I DON'T WANT TO *DESTROY* MEGA-CITY ONE!

*ARE YOU KIDDING?

*I'VE FANTASIZED ABOUT MEGA-CITY ONE ALL MY LIFE."

R.J.Z

CHEN

THEN WHAT WILL YOU ACHIEVE BY BOMBING IT?

AT FIRST? NOTHING MUCH.

"THERE WILL BE A BRIEF BANG, A CLOUD OF DUST, AND THEN LIFE WILL GO BACK TO NORMAL."

BUT THIS SUITCASE IS FULL OF ***ENHANCED DEUTERIUM***. THE MOST RADIOACTIVE SUBSTANCE KNOWN TO MAN.

ALL THAT RADIATION FLOATING IN THEIR AIR, IN THEIR WATER.

"AS THE YEARS PASS, THEY'LL BEGIN TO NOTICE CERTAIN... CHANGES.

"IN ANOTHER DECADE OR TWO, MEGA-CITY ONE WILL HAVE MILLIONS OF MUTANTS LIVING WITHIN THEIR WALLS.

"THEY'LL HAVE NO REASON TO WALL US OUT ANYMORE."

I DON'T WANT TO DESTROY MEGA-CITY ONE.

I WANT TO LIVE THERE.

UH, NOW THAT THEY'VE HEARD YOUR ENTIRE PLAN, WHAT SHOULD WE DO WITH...?

ELIMINATE THEM. OBVIOUS—

BLAM BLAM BLAM

NOT HERE! I HAVE TO WORK IN HERE! *JEEZ WITH PEAS!*

GO DUMP THEM OUT THE WASTE CHUTE BEFORE THEY SMELL UP THE PLACE! HOLY GRUD!

TH.S IS PROBABLY A SUICIDE MISSION, YOU KNOW. EVEN FOR YOU.

NO OFFENSE.

I DON'T TAKE TH.NGS PERSONALLY. I AM THE LAW.

WHAT DOES THAT *MEAN*, EXACTLY?

WELL, FOR ONE TH.NG—

—IT MEANS I'M HERE DEFENDING PEOPLE WHO JUST TRIED TO KILL ME.

BING! LEVEL F FTY. OPERATIONS CONTRO.

BLAM

BLAM

YAAARGH!

RA-TA-TA-TAT

TAT TAT

UGH!

HUNH!

YOU! GO KILL THE JUDGE!

YOU! GO KILL THE JUDGE!

LET'S MOVE. RICOCHET.

POW

OW! GRUD DAMNIT! OOF!

PING

PING

PING

PING

THE OPERATIONS CONTROL ROOM IS UP AHEAD. ONCE WE HAVE THAT—

LOOK OUT!

CHUNK

RAAAAGH!

WHUMP

SCHLINK

LOOKS LIKE THE BALL'S IN MY COURT.

BLAM

COURT ADJOURNED.

SO... YOU JUST COME UP WITH PUNS WHILE PEOPLE ARE TRYING TO KILL YOU?

OH, NO! OUR BOY!

OUR BEAUTIFUL BOY.

FOR TOO LONG, MEGA-CITY ONE HAS GLOATED AT US FROM BEHIND ITS SAFE AND CONTEMPTUOUS WALLS.

MY BEAUTIFUL MUTANTS, TAKE THIS CITY BLOCK FOR ME, AND I SHALL GIVE YOU THE CITY! GO! FIGHT FOR ME NOW!

AND I WILL BE HERE WITH YOU UNTIL THE VERY END!

CIT ZENS OF SWAYZE BLOCK—THIS IS THE MAYOR.

WE NEED TO GO.

WE HAVE RETAKEN OPERATIONS CONTROL.

WHIRR

WE HAVE RESTORED YOUR POWER.

I KNOW YOU'RE SCARED. I KNOW YOU FEEL HELPLESS. THAT'S THE WAY THEY WANT YOU TO FEEL, BECAUSE IT MAKES YOU EASIER TO CONTROL.

IT MAKES YOU USEFUL. AND I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU, BUT I AM DONE BEING USEFUL TO PEOPLE WHO DON'T CARE ABOUT US.

LOOK, I'M NOT REALLY YOUR MAYOR. I'M JUST A LA D-OFF WASTE WORKER WHO GOT TIRED OF LIV.NG IN FEAR.

I DON'T KNOW WHY MEGA-CITY ONE TURNED SWAYZE BLOCK INTO A WASTE DUMP. AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT THE MUTANTS WANT WITH IT. I JUST KNOW THAT IT IS OUR *HOME*.

AS THEY USED TO TELL US IN CHURCH–

–THINGS DON'T HAPPEN FOR A REASON. WE ARE THE REASON THAT THINGS HAPPEN.

SO, IF WE WANT OUR HOME BACK, WE HAVE TO TAKE IT OURSELVES.

ALL OF US.

NICE SPEECH.

SFSZT

FWUMP

TURN AROUND... SLOW.

WE'VE BEEN WAITING A *LONG* TIME FOR THIS.

2018

COLLECT THEIR GUNS. NOT *THAT* ONE! IT'S A LAWGIVER. BOOBY-TRAPPED.

YOU REMEMBER US?

PLEASE SAY YES. WE REMEMBER YOU SO WELL.

YEAH, I KNOW WHO YOU ARE.

THANKS. THAT'S ALL WE WANTED TO—

BLAM

DAMN. COULDN'T KEEP IT IN YOUR PANTS, COULD YOU?

IT'S OKAY. GOD GAVE US A SPARE!

THAT'S BAD NEWS FOR YOU, I'M AFRAID.

YEAH, THIS MEANS WE'RE GO NG TO HAVE TO TAKE OUR TIME WITH YOU. OTHERWISE, YOU KNOW, IT JUST WOULDN'T BE *GRATIFYING.*

UMHF

I KNOW IT'S A LOT TO LIVE UP TO.

BIFF

WE'VE BEEN PLAYING THIS SCENE IN OUR HEADS FOR THE PAST 13 YEARS.

THUNK

BUT SO FAR, IT'S LIVING UP TO THE HYPE!

HEY, DOESN'T SHE STILL OWE US A KIDNEY?

WHY DO YOU THINK THE LAW LETS COLLECTION AGENTS CARRY GUNS AND WEAR ARMOR?

BECAUSE IT REALIZES THAT YOU PEOPLE ARE *ANIMALS*. JUST ANIMALS WITH HUMAN ORGANS.

ANY LAST WORDS BEFORE WE COLLECT?

YES.

ARMOR-PIERCING.

I'M OKAY. LET'S GO. WE CAN'T LET THEM ESCAPE THE BUILDING.

UH... LOOKS LIKE THEY'VE GOT EVERYTHING UNDER CONTROL.

LET'S KEEP MOVING!

IT'S NOT MY PLACE TO QUESTION YOU, MY LORD, BUT SHOULDN'T WE HELP OUR BROTHERS? WHAT GOOD IS ANY OF THIS IF WE LOSE CONTROL OF THE BLOCK?

NOTHING IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN COMPLETING THIS MISSION.

BOOM

BUT YOU'RE RIGHT. IT'S *NOT* YOUR PLACE TO QUESTION ME.

AH, LOOK! THE GROUND FLOOR!

MEGA-CITY ONE! I'VE DREAMED OF THIS DAY FOR SO-

BANG

ARRGH!

KEEP HER BUSY! I'LL COMPLETE THE MISSION BY MYSELF!

PLINK PLINK PLINK

PLINK CLUNK

LAWMASTER, RESPOND!

FIND YOUR OWN PLANT, BUDDY!

BLAM BLAM BLAM

I THOUGHT I SENT YOU AWAY.

YOUR SPECIFIC COMMAND WAS TO CALL FOR REINFORCEMENTS WHEN WE GOT WITHIN RANGE OF A COM TOWER. WE DID. THEN, WE CAME BACK.

MEGA-CITY ONE! IT'S SO BEAUTIFUL.

ORDER ACKNOWLEDGED.

CHAKA-CHAKA-CHAKA

SO BEAUTIFUL.

JUST AS I IMAGINED IT!

ONE YEAR LATER.

AS I WAS TELLING YOUR SCHOOLCHILDREN ON THE DAY OF THE ATTACK...

"...IN THE BEGINNING, WE DIDN'T HAVE THE LAW. BUT WE DIDN'T NEED IT BECAUSE WE TRUSTED EACH OTHER LIKE FAMILY.

"BUT WHEN WE BEGAN TO LIVE TOGETHER IN LARGE NUMBERS, SURROUNDED BY STRANGERS, WE HAD TO PUT OUR TRUST IN SOMETHING BIGGER. SOMETHING *SACRED*. WHAT WE CAME UP WITH—WAS THE LAW.

"HANDED DOWN BY THE GODS AND ENFORCED BY KINGS, THE LAW IS ULTIMATELY BUILT ON THE TRUST OF *PEOPLE*. BUT WHEN THAT TRUST IS VIOLATED, THE LAW CEASES TO HAVE MEANING.

CLINK CLINK

"SO WHEN THE LAW FAILED YOU...

ICE

"...YOU BECAME A FAMILY AGAIN."

IT'S BEEN ONE YEAR SINCE WE JOINED FORCES TO THWART A DEADLY TERRORIST ATTACK.

I HOPE THIS REPRESENTS ONE SMALL STEP IN REGAINING YOUR TRUST.

SMALL STEP IS RIGHT. DON'T THINK YOU CAN BUY US OFF WITH A FEW JOBS AND SOME CANS OF PAINT.

GILBERTO PENA BLOCK

DON'T THINK I WON'T ARREST YOU TOMORROW IF YOU SO MUCH AS PARK ILLEGALLY.

THEN AGAIN, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN A SUCKER FOR A GOOD SPEECH.

I DON'T KNOW, MAYBE MC1 IS CHANGING.

MAYBE.

THEY WANT YOU TO SAY A FEW WORDS, MAYOR.

THE END.

ART ALAN QUAH COLORS KOMIKAKI STUDIO FEATURING SEAN LEE

ART FRANCESCO MATTINA

TENSE, GRITTY ACTION AS JUDGE DREDD KEEPS LAW AND ORDER IN THE CHAOS THAT IS MEGA-CITY ONE

When all contact with the Patrick Swayze Block is lost, Dredd and Judge Beeny are tasked with investigating. As they battle lawlessness and rampant criminality, they discover a threat to the city that they must contain at all costs. Written by **Mark Russell** with art by **Max Dunbar**.

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